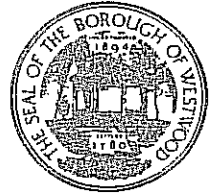


# BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD

Mayor John Birkner, Jr.



TELEPHONE (201) 664-7100 EXT. 106 • FAX (201) 664-5340 • 101 WASHINGTON AVENUE • WESTWOOD, NJ 07675  
EMAIL: JBIRKNER@WESTWOODNJ.GOV • WEBSITE: WWW.WESTWOODNJ.GOV

March 11, 2013

State of New Jersey  
Department of Environmental Protection  
401 East State Street  
Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Attn.: Bob Martin - Commissioner

Re.: Pascack Valley Waterway Report

Dear Commissioner Martin,

We had the opportunity to speak during a conference held at Drumthwacket last fall just prior to the arrival of Superstorm Sandy. At that time you asked that I contact you directly to continue our conversation in more detail. Recognizing your commitment to the areas of New Jersey so devastatingly impacted by this natural disaster, I have waited to contact you to advance our discussion.

My concern then, and as it continues now, is the impact of the Woodcliff Lake Dam operated by United Water New Jersey on the Pascack Brook. Due to repeated flooding events along the Pascack Brook in Westwood and our surrounding municipalities, the Borough of Westwood commissioned an engineering analysis of the effects of the Woodcliff Lake Dam on downstream flooding.

A copy of our report along with a letter (copy enclosed) requesting to implement the recommended operational changes at the dam was sent to your staff in December of 2011. To date, we have not had any response from the NJDEP regarding our concerns.

While we understand that subsequent events throughout the State may have taken on a necessary priority for the department's resources, the Borough of Westwood remains committed to finding a solution to help mitigate the effects of chronic flooding that has impacted many of our residents for decades, and we are turning to you directly for assistance.

We are seeking direction from the NJDEP to modify the Standard Operating Procedure at the Woodcliff Lake Dam to maintain the level of the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir at the "Winter Mode" level of 91' elevation for the entire year. We request United Water New Jersey be required to operate the bascule gates accordingly in effort to mitigate much of the flooding that impacts the area during heavy storm events.

The full text of our report and all appendices are available for your review as posted on the Borough of Westwood website ([www.westwoodnj.gov](http://www.westwoodnj.gov)) under the "Pascack Valley

Waterway Management Task Force" tab. Enclosed is a CD copy for your reference. I believe that this document contains the data and findings that provide the basis to implement the recommended changes to the operational procedures of the Woodcliff Lake Dam.

I look forward to your response and for the opportunity to meet personally to further discuss the importance of our request.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions or require additional information.

Borough of Westwood



John Birkner, Jr. - Mayor  
(201) 664-7100 x 106

Encls.